

REMARKS

The only issue outstanding in the office action mailed December 21, 2006, is the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112. The examiner is thanked for indicating that the claims are allowable over art. In view of the following discussion, it is submitted that all issues are resolved and that the claims are in condition for allowance.

Claims 1-2, 4-9 and 16 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Reconsideration of this rejection is respectfully requested. The paragraph numbers below correspond to the numbering of the paragraphs in the office action.

3. A “micromixer” is conventional and well known in the art. Attention is directed to the attached excerpt of the book “*Génie de la réaction chimique conception et fonctionnement des réacteurs*” (Chemical reaction engineering, conception and operation of reactors) by Jacques Villermaux, Technique et documentation Lavoisier Paris, 2éme triage, 1985. Jacques Villermaux is a world-renowned specialist in the field of chemical engineering.

Micromixing is defined on p.211 as follows (passage highlighted): “*The quality of mixing inside the reactor is an important parameter which determines the contact of different portions of the fluid and exchanges of matter within the reaction mixture. It is agreed to call MACROMIXING (or mixing at the macroscopic scale) those phenomena which lead to the existence of a distribution of residence time, while the term MICROMIXING (or mixing at the microscopic scale) designates those phenomena which characterize the fine texture of the mixture. The description of the state of micromixture lies on two distinct notions: the segregation of the fluid, and the precocity of the mixing.*”

It is thus evident that a micromixer is a device which allows at least two components A and B to form a perfectly homogenous fluid on a microscopic scale.

Accordingly, in view of the art recognized definition of the term, there is no indefiniteness in the claims.

4. The claims have been reformatted for U.S. usage, with "preferable" language being placed in appropriate dependent claims.

5. Claim 14 has also been rewritten for U.S. practice. Alternate embodiments have been also placed in appropriate dependent claims, and it is submitted that the Markush language of the claim is fully appropriate.

Accordingly, withdrawal of all the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112 was respectfully requested. It is submitted that the claims are in condition for allowance, and passage to issue is respectfully requested. However, if the examiner has any questions or comments, he is cordially invited to telephone the undersigned at the number below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees associated with this response or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-3402.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attorney Docket No.: HIRSCH-0031
Date: March 21, 2007
HBS:cak